



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
44TH EXPEDITIONARY SIGNAL BATTALION
UNIT 31001
APO AE 09033

Dear Future Outstanding Warrior,

Command Sergeant Major and I would like to take this time to welcome you to the Fighting 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. The Battalion transformed to an Expeditionary Signal Battalion just prior to deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09 and completed the deployment on Christmas Day 2008.

Our Soldiers are ready to assist you on your arrival in any way they can. One resource easily accessible to you right now is the United States Army Europe website, <http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/default.htm> which contains a lot of useful information, including an opportunity to sign up for a sponsor if you haven't already been contacted by one (select the *Sponsorship S-Gate* link under the *Living in Europe* section).

An additional resource for you is our own Fighting 44th Newcomer's Welcome Page which can be found here: <http://www.5sigcmd.army.mil/7THSIGBDE/44THESB/Index.htm>. This page has information that will be useful to you as a Future Outstanding Warrior which is specific to our Battalion and the surrounding area of Schweinfurt, Germany.

Schweinfurt is a beautiful area in Southern Bavaria, close to many typically beautiful German tourist sites. It consists of several small installations that together make up US Army Garrison Schweinfurt. The Battalion offices, barracks and motorpool areas are on Ledward Barracks while Families will live in Askren Manor, Yorktown Village, Conn Barracks, or off post in government leased rental properties. The Schweinfurt community is extremely helpful and I encourage you to check the following website for additional information about the military community and the surrounding area: <http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/sites/local/>. The *Community Info Vault*, contains a lot of information on moving in general.

If you have Family members accompanying you, I recommend you purchase a United States passport for your entire Family. There are many wonderful places to visit in Europe while stationed in this area; however due to recent changes, some European Union countries no longer accept the Government Issued passport to cross the German border. Additionally in order to take advantage of the many travel opportunities – I recommend you begin study for the driver's license exam. The guide is included with your Sponsorship Welcome Packet.

Another useful resource for both you and your Families is the VFRG Website: <https://www.armyfrg.org>. This page will allow you to access information regarding the Battalion, as well as the company-level Family Readiness Groups (FRGs).

We look forward to you and your Family's arrival. Again, we wish you safe travels and are ready to help you with your transition to our Battalion. If you have any questions, please contact our S1 at DSN 314-354-2055.

Original Signed

DEMETRIUS R. STEEL
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major

Original Signed

DWAYNE A. DICKENS
LTC, USA
Commanding